

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen
Tuesday April 5, 2016

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Room A of the Ipswich Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Charles Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay and Bill Craft. Also present were, Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, Police Chief Paul Nikas, and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. David Swicker, Michael Lambros and Brenda Turner were not present.

Citizen's Queries: Ms. Alexson noted that the new commercial shellfish licenses were misprinted and the language stating they had to be in the permit-holder's possession was incomplete. It was agreed that they should be reprinted. Constable LaPreste will bring it to the attention of the Town Clerk.

Green crab bounty for 2016 –

The Board reflected on the amount of the bounty. Forty-cents per pound is the same price as last year.

MOTION: Mr. Castonguay moved to set the price bounty for green crabs at .40 cents per pound, until further notice; Mr. Surpitski seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Ipswich River pollution testing:

With a grant from DEP, Kevin McHugh of Coneco Engineers & Scientists, Inc. was hired to work for the Town to investigate the ongoing pollution problems. He presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing sampling activities, focusing on bacteria. He reviewed the canine detection results. It was clarified that storm water is not sewage, but at some point(s) human sewage is being introduced. The objective is to find and treat the source, rather than end of pipe treatment. He described the features of Engineered Wetlands and proposal to locate one on property owned by the Ipswich Brewery. The cost is covered by grant monies, the preliminary design is finished; DPW has contacted abutters and will continue reaching out the homeowners along Farley Brook. Approval will be required from the Conservation Commission. The project could happen this summer.

Mr. McHugh agreed to send the PowerPoint presentation to Mr. LaPreste, who will send it to the board members.

Private aquaculture discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Returning to the subject of **green crabs**, Mr. Surpitski initiated discussion about adding language in the procedural document to the effect that the Constable "may" direct placement of green crab traps. Discussion took place, members concurred.

MOTION:

Mr. Surpitski moved to support the "process and procedures" the Chief supplied, with an amendment, by adding the statement "The Shellfish Constable "may" direct the placement of traps." Mr. Craft seconded, the vote was unanimously in favor.

8:10 p.m. Mr. Craft departed.

Mr. Surpitski initiated discussion regarding state funding for FY 17 for the green crab trapping program.

The Chief said he will reach out to Senator Tarr and Representative Hill.

Constable LaPreste spoke to the long term effect of a regional approach to green crab trapping, and discussion was held regarding activity in surrounding towns. It was agreed to try to arrange a green crab summit in June. Mr. LaPreste will provide a PowerPoint presentation and will reach out to surrounding towns, state reps, Ipswich trappers and DMF.

Constable report

Constable LaPreste reported on the Shellfish Constable training course he attended. He learned a lot; much of it didn't apply to Ipswich. At the request of Mr. Surpitski, Mr. LaPreste will submit the course syllabus with a brief report to the BOS to emphasize what he can do because a deputy constable is on duty in his absence.

Constable LaPreste announced rain rules changed for N4 as of April 1st; 105 commercial licenses were issued in March; 12 new licenses approved; 8 left; no lottery will be necessary this year.

Discussion took place regarding the December deadline to apply for licenses and the hardship license be renamed to "provisional licenses". Chief Nikas said that many times the reason for a hardship license is because the deadline was missed and he feels the deadline date should be publicized better. Ms. Alexson suggested getting the word out in October and November. Mr. Castonguay suggested a simple resolution is to go back to the way it was. Pros and cons were debated; no action was taken.

Ms. Alexson announced upcoming events at Ipswich River Watershed Association.

Approval of the March meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Next Meeting –Tuesday, May 3, 2016, time TBA depending on the time of low tide.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Marie Rodgers
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Committee on May 3, 2016